

on, and told his royal visitor that when he could live on such fare it was unlawful for him to accept money. At last when Mahmud stood up to go, the saint too stood up by way of showing respect. Mahmud said, "When I came your holiness received me quite indifferently and now you are showing me so much respect, how should I account for this?" To this Abul Hassan replied, "When you came you were puffed up with the pride of power. You wished to impress me with your greatness. But now you are humble and lowly, and as such you deserve respect."

STORY 85.

HOW THE CALIPH AL HAKM OF SPAIN RESTORED THE HOUSE OF AN OLD WIDOW.

AL HAKM one of the Arab Caliphs of Spain wished to have a palace built. For this purpose he chose a site which suited his requirements but which belonged to an old widow, who lived there in a small cottage. The Caliph requested the widow to sell him the ground, and offered a much larger sum than the ground was worth, but the old woman refused to part with her patrimony. The Caliph tried all legitimate means, but the old woman was obdurate. At last the Caliph yielded to the temptations of power and seized the ground forcibly.

But the widow was not one to give up her property so easily. She probably knew the power of law in Muslim society. So she called on the Quazi, related her story and asked him to do justice to her and restore to her the ground wrested from her.

The Quazi assured her that he would do his best for her. Now the Quazi knew that the Caliph was violent and head-strong. So instead of taking direct action he had the ends of justice served in a very peculiar manner without compromising the dignity of the Caliph.

When one day the Caliph was inspecting the work of construction the Quazi drove into his